

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of provisioning distribution channels in a
2 communications network, comprising:

3 providing a subscriber accessible provisioning terminal for a
4 subscriber site at which a plurality of distribution channels are allocated
5 to a plurality of drop-points;

6 receiving a subscriber provisioning selection via said subscriber
7 accessible provisioning terminal; and

8 selectively changing an allocation of distribution channels for said
9 plurality of drop-points in accordance with said subscriber provisioning
10 selection.

1 2. The invention as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

2 transmitting said subscriber provisioning selection to a remote
3 provisioning control site.

1 3. The invention as defined in claim 2, wherein said remote
2 provisioning control site determines whether said subscriber provisioning
3 selection is acceptable, sends an acknowledgement to said provisioning
4 terminal when said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, and
5 sends an error signal when said subscriber provisioning selection is not
6 acceptable.

1 4. The invention as defined in claim 3, wherein said subscriber
2 terminal requests a different subscriber provisioning selection upon
3 receiving an error signal from said remote provisioning control site.

1 5. The invention as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

2 confirming subscriber authorization for changing an allocation of
3 distribution channels.

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1 6. The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of
2 distribution channels are time division multiplexed, and said step of
3 selectively changing distribution channel allocation changes cross-
4 connections of a time slot interchange unit.

1 7. The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of
2 distribution channels are provided by a high-bandwidth transmission
3 line.

1 8. The invention as defined in claim 7, wherein said high-bandwidth
2 transmission line is a T1 line, and said plurality of distribution channels
3 are time-division multiplexed on said T1 line.

1 9. The invention as defined in claim 1, wherein said subscriber site is
2 a distant terminal in a digital loop carrier system.

1 10. The invention as defined in claim 2, wherein said remote
2 provisioning control site is a remote terminal in a digital loop carrier
3 system.

1 11. An apparatus for provisioning distribution channels in a
2 communications network, comprising:
3 means for receiving a subscriber provisioning selection via a
4 subscriber accessible provisioning terminal of a subscriber site where a
5 plurality of distribution channels are allocated to a plurality of drop-
6 points; and

7 means for selectively changing an allocation of distribution
8 channels for said plurality of drop-points in accordance with said
9 subscriber provisioning selection.

1 12. The invention as defined in claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for transmitting said subscriber provisioning selection to a
3 remote provisioning control site.

1 13. The invention as defined in claim 12, wherein said remote
2 provisioning control site determines whether said subscriber provisioning
3 selection is acceptable, sends an acknowledgement to said provisioning
4 terminal when said subscriber provisioning selection is acceptable, and
5 sends an error signal when said subscriber provisioning selection is not
6 acceptable.

1 14. The invention as defined in claim 13, wherein said means for
2 receiving requests a different subscriber provisioning selection upon
3 receiving an error signal from said remote provisioning control site.

1 15. The invention as defined in claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for confirming subscriber authorization for changing an
3 allocation of distribution channels.

1 16. The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said plurality of
2 distribution channels are time division multiplexed, and said means for
3 selectively changing distribution channel allocation changes cross-
4 connections of a time slot interchange unit.

1 17. The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said plurality of
2 distribution channels are provided by a high-bandwidth transmission
3 line.

1 18. The invention as defined in claim 17, wherein said high-bandwidth
2 transmission line is a T1 line, and said plurality of distribution channels
3 are time-division multiplexed on said T1 line.

1 19. The invention as defined in claim 11, wherein said subscriber site
2 is a distant terminal in a digital loop carrier system.

1 20. The invention as defined in claim 12, wherein said remote
2 provisioning control site is a remote terminal in a digital loop carrier
3 system.

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